

ELAINE CHAO

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I supported Elaine Chao's nomination to be Secretary of Labor. I am confident that her experience and intellect will serve her well as she considers issues relating to our Nation's workforce and workplaces.

Elaine's career exemplifies her dedication to public service and commitment to leadership. Elaine served as deputy transportation secretary under former President Bush and later became director of the Peace Corps in 1991. She headed United Way of America between 1992 and 1996, and she currently serves as a Heritage Foundation fellow. Additionally, many of us in this body also know her as the distinguished wife of our colleague, Senator MITCH MCCONNELL.

As a member of the new Administration, I hope that Elaine will be able to build coalitions and work effectively with groups holding a wide range of political views. These skills will be essential as we consider many of the important labor-related issues during the beginning of the 21st Century.

GOVERNOR WHITMAN

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I supported the nomination of New Jersey Governor Christie Whitman to serve as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

As one of the organizers of the first Earth Day more than 30 years ago, I understand the importance of protecting and improving our Nation's environment. The Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and other major environmental statutes have helped this Nation significantly improve our air and water quality. We have made significant progress over the past three decades, and North Dakota has done well to maintain its clean environment. However, our Nation still has too many areas that have dirty air and unclean water. Too many of our citizens develop diseases as a result of pollution in our environment. We need to continue the progress of the past three decades without sacrificing the tremendous economic growth of the past eight years.

I met with Governor Whitman in my office last week to discuss some of the differences between rural western States and more urban, industrialized eastern States. I emphasized the need to develop different solutions to environmental problems in different areas, and also indicated my support for incentive-based approaches to improving our environment. I have been pleased to hear some of Governor Whitman's preliminary statements on that subject. However, I also believe we cannot abandon enforcement efforts to improve compliance with our Nation's environmental laws. Governor Whitman will have to strike an appropriate balance between the two. It will be a difficult task, but after meeting with her and reviewing her record, I believe she is up to the job.

President Bush made a good selection when he asked Governor Whitman to

head the EPA. She assumes a tremendous new responsibility, and I look forward to working with her in her new role as Administrator.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2001, the Secretary of the Senate, on February 6, 2001, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 7. Joint resolution recognizing the 90th birthday of Ronald Reagan.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

At 11:35 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Rota, one of its clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 7. Joint resolution recognizing the 90th birthday of Ronald Reagan.

The enrolled joint resolution was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

At 12:43 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 132. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 620 Jacaranda Street in Lanai City, Hawaii, as the "Goro Hokama Post Office Building."

H.R. 395. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2305 Minton Road in West Melbourne, Florida, as the "Ronald W. Reagan Post Office of West Melbourne, Florida."

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

From the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 17: A resolution congratulating President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the celebration of 53 years of independence.

S. Res. 18: A resolution expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck El Salvador on January 13, 2001.

From the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 248: A bill to amend the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001, to adjust a condition on the payment of arrearages to the United Nations that sets the maximum share of any United Nations peacekeeping operation's budget that may be assessed of any country.

From the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Con. Res. 6: A concurrent resolution expressing the sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck India on January 26, 2001, and support for ongoing aid efforts.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of committee were submitted:

By Mr. HELMS for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Paul Henry O'Neill, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Governor of the International Monetary Fund for a term of five years; United States Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of five years; United States Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of five years; United States Governor of the African Development Bank for a term of five years; United States Governor of the Asian Development Bank; United States Governor of the African Development Fund; United States Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations, I report favorably nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS of the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Foreign Service nominations beginning James D. Grueff and ending Ralph Iwamoto Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on 2/1/01.

Foreign Service nominations beginning An Thanh Le and ending Amy Wing Schedlbauer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on 2/1/01.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CLELAND:

S. 269. A bill to ensure that immigrant students and their families receive the services the students and families need to successfully participate in elementary schools, secondary schools, and communities in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. HELMS):

S. 270. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide a transitional adjustment for certain sole community hospitals in order to limit any decline in payment under the prospective payment system for hospital outpatient department services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 271. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that the mandatory separation age for Federal firefighters be made the same as the age that applies with respect to Federal law enforcement officers; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.